REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action contains an objection to Figs. 3-6, 9-13 and 18-24. This objection was discussed with the Examiner by telephone on December 15, 2008. It was agreed that the grounds for the objection were obviated by the Preliminary Amendment dated October 31, 2006. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-15, 17 and 18 as being either anticipated by WO 94/25254, Phillips, or by U.S. Patent No. 3,381,810, Waite; or as being upatentable over the foregoing references, possibly in view of either U.S. Patent No. 3,962,399, Shepherd, or Rosato, "Injection Molding Handbook". Claims 1 and 16 are canceled.

Phillips discloses a door member or door frame member of porous material comprising a molded-on plastics component wherein the material of this component is infused into the already existing pores (page 13, claim 1). The plastic component is made by infusing flowable plastics material, e.g., non-foamable polyurethane, under low pressure into a mold. Polyurethane is a reactive resin, the mold used is a casting mold, therefore the plastics material is supplied under low pressure. The method disclosed in Phillips is not an injection molding process where usually high pressure is used.

Waite discloses a composite floor material fabricated of wood blocks embedded in a thermoplastic resin matrix. The wood blocks are bonded into the matrix by the penetration of the resin into the inherently present interstices, pores, vessels and voids in the wood and polymerisation of the matrix resin (column 1, lines 24 to 32, column 5, lines 8 to 12, column 6, lines 1 to 12). Again, no injection molding method is used.

Shepherd concerns joining a metal tool with a non-metallic (wooden) handle by means of plastics material. The method used is injection molding, and a recessed portion in the wooden handle supports the bonding of the handle to the tool. The plastics material does not penetrate into the wooden handle.

New independent claim 19 recites a method for binding wood base elements of solid wood (natural wood) to plastics material by means of an injection molding process. On the one hand, the plastics material melt, which is injected into an injection mold where the wood base element is inserted, acts on the surface of the wood base element and penetrates into existing free spaces. And, in addition, the process parameters, especially the exerted pressure (claims 6 and

7), are adjusted such that the plastics melt compresses and partially deforms the wood structure to create new spaces and the melt thus penetrates into the new spaces. For a further description, see pages 2, 7, 11 and 12 of this application.

No disclosure or suggestion of the process of claim 19 is seen in the art of record. For at least this reason, claim 19 and its dependent claims 2-15, 17, 18 and 20 are requested to be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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